

Thomas Jefferson to Andrew Ellicott, January 15, 1793, with Copy, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.

Jefferson to Ellicott

Philadelphia Jan. 15. 1793.

Dear Sir

I have duly recieved your favor of the 9th. the President thinking it would be better that the outlines at least of the city, and perhaps of George town should be laid down in the plat of the territory, I have sent it back to the Commissioners from whom it came, that you may do this. suppose you were to consult them on the propriety of adding to *the Eastern branch*, the words ' *or Annakostia.* ' This would probably revive the antient Indian name instead of the modern one. I am extremely sorry to learn that there has arisen any dissatisfaction between the Commissioners & yourself. I am sure it is without a fault on either side, such is my confidence in both parties, the work you are employed in must be slow from it's nature: and it is not wonderful if the Commissioners should think it too much so. however I hope you will change your mind about bringing it before the public, this cannot be done without injuring the expectations built on the city, nor can it be necessary in a case unknown beyond the circle of George town. within that circle, verbal explanations will certainly answer equally well as a justification to you. indeed I hope nothing will take place to render your future services there unobtainable with the Commissioners, and that you will suspend any resolution you may have taken on the subject. —

I am with great esteem Dear Sir

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Your very humble servt Th: Jefferson

MR. ANDREW ELLICT.

[Ms., *Jefferson Papers*, Library of Congress; also printed under date of January 15, 1794, pp. 188–89, *Records*, Columbia Historical Society, Vol. 2.]